NE TL

NATIONAL
ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY

The Toolkit

Partnering with NETL

Activities ⟶ Mechanisms

Ideation, Scoping Projects, Drafting Joint Proposals, Sharing Technical Information, Testing Samples

Informal Discussions

Informal discussions allow for full exploration of the breadth of interests and capabilities to identify areas of overlap or synergy. Once the synergies are understood, discrete activities take shape. From these activities, one or more appropriate partnering mechanisms are pursued.

Non-disclosure Agreements (NDA)

NDAs enable a free-flowing exchange of information (including samples and data) by requiring confidentiality of certain shared information. Even without an NDA, NETL is bound to keep partner information confidential under the Trade Secrets Act, and its contractors are bound by their contracts.

Non-analysis Agreements (NAA)

NAAs allow for testing and evaluation of NETL patented technology. Other activities are prohibited, such as determining composition and using the technology for commercial purposes.

Co-developing Technology; Accessing Experts, Capabilities and Equipment

Cooperative Research & Development Agreements (CRADA)

A CRADA is a collaborative research and development project between NETL or other federal facilities and one or more non-federal parties including industry, educational institutions, non-profits, and state and local government. All parties to the CRADA will actively participate in the research. Such participation may involve contributions of intellectual property and proprietary information, personnel, equipment, supplies, materials and facilities. The non-federal party may also contribute funds, but NETL cannot transfer funds to the non-federal party.

Contributed Funds Agreements (CFA)

A CFA permits NETL to perform work for an outside party. NETL must be 100% reimbursed for the project. The outside party does not perform any of the work. New inventions are not anticipated under this type of project.

Activities ⟶ Mechanisms

Commercializing NETL Intellectual Property, Creating Startups

Licenses

Licenses transfer NETL-created, DOE-owned intellectual property rights to another party. The type of license (exclusive, partially exclusive or non-exclusive) and the rights transferred (make, use, sell, research, evaluate) depend on the stage of the technology's development and the commercialization plans of the licensee.

Teaming

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) & Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

MOUs memorialize an understanding of an intended common line of action and the terms therefor through a non-binding agreement. MOAs memorialize an agreement for cooperatively working together on an agreed upon project and the terms therefor through a binding agreement. Neither allows for transfer of funds. Implementation of funded, collaborative projects must be accomplished through a separate, legally binding instrument.

Accessing Federal Funding

Financial Assistance Awards (FA)

FAs support specific projects conducted outside of NETL through cooperative agreements or grants. FAs result from a competitive funding opportunity announcement (FOA) process or a non-competitive, unsolicited proposal (USP) submission.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) & Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

SBIR and STTR programs encourage domestic small businesses to engage in federal research/research and development projects with the potential for commercialization. The highly competitive, awards-based programs enable businesses to explore technological and commercial potential and provide the impetus to profit from commercialization. Awards are categorized into three phases: feasibility, R&D, and commercialization (not federally funded).

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Driving Innovation Delivering Results

Partnerships

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Financial Assistance Awards

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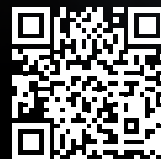Sydni.Credle@netl.doe.gov
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Scan to Explore NETL